

“Friendship”

Proverbs 17:17

Introduction

- I. At some point in our lives, we could all use the love and kindness of a true friend (Prov. 18:24).
 - A. There are times that we might want a friend to help with our griefs.
 - B. Other times, we might a friend to share in our joys.
 - C. Regardless of the occasion, one should never forget the value of a good friend (Prov. 17:17).
- II. The greatest friend that man can have is God!
 - A. Abraham was blessed to have God as his Friend (Isa. 41:8; James 2:23).
 - B. We should strive to live our lives in such ways as to be a friend to God as well.

Discussion

- I. How can I be a friend of God?
 - A. How did Abraham become God's friend?
 1. Abraham “believed” God (James 2:23).
 - a. This does not mean that mere acknowledgment and acceptance of God is all that Abraham did.
 - b. On the contrary, the context of James 2 explains that to “believe” God as Abraham did, man must do works of obedience in harmony with God's Word (James 2:14-24).
 2. Abraham became “the Friend of God” through faith plus works.
 - B. Jesus, who is God, explained how I can be His friend (John 1:1; 15:12-15).
 1. As with Abraham long ago, if a man wants to be a true friend of God, then faithful obedience to God's Word is absolutely necessary.
 2. We can claim to be God's friend, but if we will not faithfully obey Him, then we are deceiving ourselves (Luke 6:46; James 1:20-25).
- II. If I am not a friend of God, then I am “a friend of the world.”
 - A. By being “a friend of the world,” I make myself “the enemy of God” (James 4:4).
 1. Contrary to the many voices that teach otherwise, we are not to be enamored with this world (1 John 2:15-17).
 2. Friends of God are not to emulate the friends of the world (Rom. 12:2).
 - B. The world will end, but God will remain (2 Pet. 3:9-12; Psm. 90:2; Isa. 57:15).
 1. Therefore, the things of this world (including friendship with it) are but temporal.
 2. Friendship with God is a blessing that will endure (Rev. 21:1-3).

Conclusion

- I. Friendship can be a very precious thing indeed.
- II. Let us strive to do what we must in order to be God's friend!